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Report of the first session of the

INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY COMMISSION

Rome, 16-20 September 1968

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 1968

REPORT

of the

FIRST SESSION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY COMMISSION

Rome, 16-20 September 1968

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, November 1968

PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

This is the final version of the Report as approved by the First Session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission.

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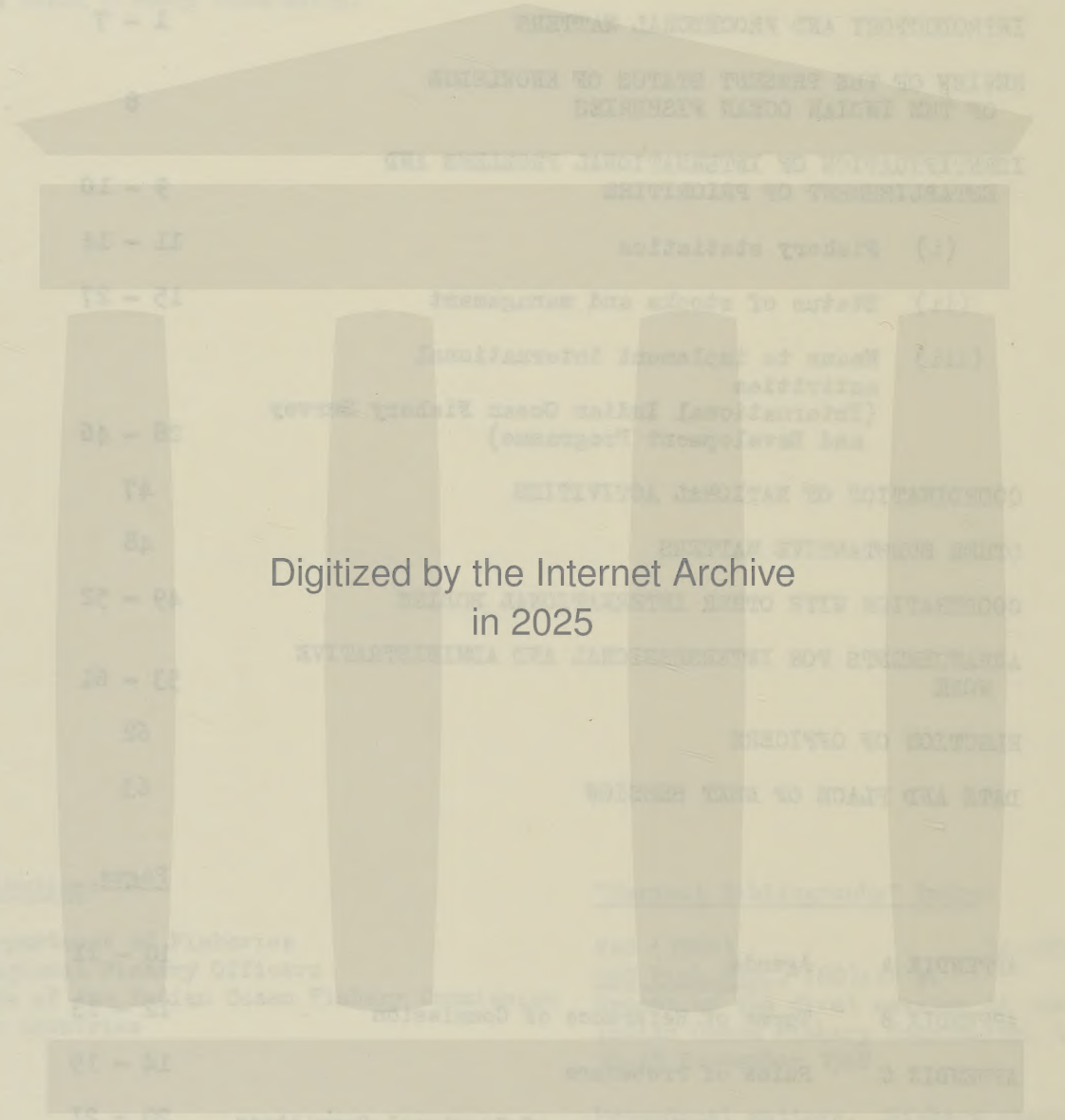

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INTRODUCTORY AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. The Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC) held its First Session from 16 - 20 September 1968 at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy. The Session was attended by representatives of 23 member nations, observers from 2 nations and 3 international organizations. A list of participants is given in Appendix F to this Report.

2. The representatives were welcomed in an opening address by the Director-General, Mr. A.H. Boerma. (See Appendix G to this Report).

3. The Commission elected Dr. G.N. Mitra (India) as Chairman, Mr. J. Kambona (Tanzania) as First Vice-Chairman, and Mr. A. Arimatsu (Japan) as Second Vice-Chairman to serve during this Session.

4. Before the Commission considered its Agenda, Mr. Roy I. Jackson, Assistant Director-General (Fisheries) addressed the Session, reviewing in his statement the events leading up to the establishment of the IOFC. (See Appendix H to this Report).

5. The Commission considered the Provisional Agenda and adopted it in the form shown in Appendix A to this Report. The documents which were placed before the Commission are listed in Appendix E.

6. The Commission reviewed its terms of reference (Appendix B), following which it adopted the Rules of Procedure, (Appendix C to this Report).

7. Upon suggestion by the Chairman, the Commission established a Nominations Committee composed of the representatives from the following countries: Ceylon (convener), Australia, France, Kenya, Qatar and Thailand, to facilitate the election of officers to serve during the intersessional period and the Second Session of the Commission.

REVIEW OF THE PRESENT STATUS OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES

8. The Commission discussed the present state of knowledge of the inshore, offshore and oceanic fisheries of the Indian Ocean, the status of fishery statistics in the region and the problems in utilization of the fishery resources. In its discussions, the Commission made use of a number of documents which had been prepared and introduced by members of the Secretariat. Many delegates made statements on their national fishery problems and expressed their views on the kinds of action which were required to assist fishery development. The information and views considered under this agenda item formed the basis for the actions which the Commission subsequently took under item 8 of its Agenda.

IDENTIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITIES

9. After having completed its general review of the present status of knowledge of the Indian Ocean fisheries, the Commission agreed that the improvement of fishery statistics for the region was a matter of fundamental priority. It also agreed that high priority should be given to the management of heavily exploited stocks.

10. As a third matter of priority, the Commission agreed that special attention should be given to developing means of implementing both for the immediate future and at longer range international programmes of survey and development in the Indian Ocean. The decisions of the Commission with respect to each of these priorities are given in the following sections of the Report under this agenda item.

(i) Fishery Statistics

11. The Commission established a Sessional Committee on Fishery Statistics 1/ and on the basis of its deliberations considered the need for additional data on the exploitation of the resources of the Indian Ocean. It recognized the difficulties involved in the introduction of statistical collection systems in some areas, and also recognized that work was being undertaken by the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council (IPFC) in this field and that there was a considerable area of overlap between the two bodies.

12. The Commission therefore proposes that an IOFC/IPFC Joint Working Party of Experts on Indian Ocean and Western Pacific Fishery Statistics be established to meet between Sessions provided funds are available. The establishment of such a joint working party will depend on a decision being taken by the IPFC at its Thirteenth Session in October 1968. If, as seems most unlikely, a decision in favour of a joint working party is not taken by the IPFC, the Commission would establish an IOFC Working Party for the Indian Ocean alone. In either case, members should be represented by persons actively engaged in the field of statistics and representation should be such as to give adequate geographical and subject matter coverage.

13. Subject to the approval of the IPFC, the Commission decided that the terms of reference of the joint working party should be:

(a) To examine and assess the existing national statistical systems in the area

(b) To encourage and assist member governments of both bodies to improve and to initiate statistical programmes to meet the requirements of the national governments and of international bodies

(c) To define the limits and sub-areas of the Indian Ocean, Western Pacific and adjacent seas and sponsor the preparation of authoritative maps for statistical purposes; also to define smaller sub-divisions as the need arises, taking into account specific and separate fish stock units

(d) To develop a joint comprehensive reference list of the scientific and vernacular names in English, French and other local languages of the area of species having commercial interest in the Indian Ocean, Western Pacific and adjacent seas, taking into account the International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants elaborated by FAO

(e) To prepare from the comprehensive reference lists suitably abridged versions of statistical categories identified by the scientific and vernacular names of the species included in such categories

(f) To prepare a classification of craft and gears with such subclassification as may be necessary including the requirements for effort statistics

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1/ For the composition and terms of reference of the Sessional Committee see Appendix D.

(g) To develop standard reporting forms with instructions for their completion taking into account the FAO/ICES/ICNAF "STANA" system to eliminate as far as possible any duplication in the reporting and processing of data

(h) To consider the need for and the means of introducing biological sampling techniques and collection covering economic data

(i) To consider the employment of computer techniques in the design and operation of statistical systems

(j) To recommend to national agencies the form of publication of statistical data to avoid duplication and to ensure comparability of data

14. The Commission recognized that the activities of the proposed Joint Working Party on Fishery Statistics must be supplemented by immediate and effective action at the national level and that expert and financial assistance should be sought where needed.

(ii) Status of stocks and management

15. The Commission established a further Sessional Committee[2/] to assist it in the consideration of this matter, and took note of the documents presented concerning the state of stocks of fish in the Indian Ocean (IOFC/68/4, 5, 10, and 12, and IOFC/68/INF.8 and INF.11). These contained comprehensive reviews of the present state of knowledge of the stocks but, in nearly all respects, this knowledge is inadequate for planning development and for management.

16. The reviews indicated that, taken as a whole, the stocks of fish in the Indian Ocean were under-exploited, and the catches could be greatly expanded. Specific examples of stocks that could provide increased catches are the skipjack tuna, the sardines and mackerels (especially in the northwestern Indian Ocean), and trawl fisheries in several areas. Certain stocks of valuable fish, however, were being heavily fished. These were the shrimp in the Gulf between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula and some of the larger tunas supporting long-line fisheries (yellowfin, albacore and bluefin). The amount of fishing on these stocks had been increasing, and was likely to continue to increase. Such further increase in fishing might decrease the total catch and would, at best, only increase the total by a small amount. The catch per unit effort would certainly be decreased.

17. The Commission therefore believed that there was an urgent need to consider what management measures might be desirable, and what administrative and procedural steps would be required to put them into effect.

18. The Commission recognized that to some extent the need for management must depend on the objectives of management. Historically, in other areas, the earliest objectives had been the maintenance of stocks at such a level that the sustained yield is not decreased, but later economic objectives, i.e. the taking of the same catch at reduced cost, had been recognized as being important. Such a sequence was likely to occur in the Indian Ocean, but, while recognizing that such economic objectives may well become important in the future, the Commission felt that, at least initially, management measures should be directed to those stocks where it is likely that too much fishing could reduce the sustained yield.

2/ For the composition and terms of reference of the Sessional Committee see Appendix D.

19. Several procedures for dealing with the consideration of management measures were suggested:

(a) within the framework of IOFC

(b) through a new body with explicit regulatory powers

(c) by ad-hoc bi-lateral or multi-lateral agreements between the countries primarily concerned

(d) through some other body already existing or proposed

20. The Commission was not able to examine the advantages or disadvantages of these possibilities in detail, though it was felt that it was preferable for the discussions on regulation to be limited to those countries with a direct, present or potential interest in the fishery.

21. The Commission noted that the problems of shrimp and of tuna are distinct, and, to a large extent, involve different groups of countries. The Commission therefore decided to establish two committees of nations (a Committee on the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna, and a Committee on the Management of Gulf Shrimp), to consider the steps required to introduce management measures when these are necessary. The Committees could include observers from those countries with interests in the fisheries concerned which are not members of IOFC, or of FAO, but are members of UN or of its specialized agencies, and the Commission requested the Secretariat to make every effort to encourage the participation of those countries, particularly those which are already fishing tunas in the area, in the discussion of the Committees.

22. The Committees should be advised by a small working party of experts in the field of stock assessments. The studies by the working party should include not only assessments of the effects on the total yield of changes in the amount of fishing, but also the effects on long term catches of shrimp of the sizes of animals landed, and of the mesh size used in the trawls, and should also take into account those fluctuations in the stocks which are not caused by fishing.

23. The proposed Committees should have available to them adequate information on the status of the stocks. It is probable that further biological studies on the state of the tuna stocks which might be carried out within the next year would not significantly improve the assessments already available. The available shrimp assessments, based on biological data which are largely limited to the season's fishing would be improved if studies could cover another year's data and if environmental data could be taken into account, and the Commission recommends that arrangements should be made for such studies by international experts to be available at the time of the proposed Committees.

24. While the information in the Session documents, and in the FAO Indicative World Plan resources review, which, unfortunately was not generally available at the time of the Session, is probably the best presently available, it is essential for the purposes of both development planning, and the timely introduction of management measures, that this information is kept under regular review. Such reviews should include both general reviews of the area as a whole, e.g. the IWP studies (which should be continued as part of the world appraisal of marine resources as recommended by ACMRR), and detailed studies of specific stocks of interest, e.g. the tuna and shrimp studies.

25. These reviews cannot be done without adequate support, both for permanent staff attached to the Commission, and for the meetings of specialist working parties. Specifically, the Commission recommends that the provision be made for meetings of working parties of experts on stock assessment during the 1970-71 biennium.

26. This work should be very closely linked with the resource studies being considered under the proposed Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme, and with the IPFC and, as necessary, the studies and working parties should be carried out jointly with such bodies.

27. The Commission recognized that in the long term, adequate studies of the status of stocks, and of the management measures needed, can only be carried out on the basis of adequate national scientific research in the area. In this connection, the stimulus likely to be given to national research by the Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme was particularly welcomed. The Commission also strongly supports any other action that might help the development of such research. In particular, it noted that regular meetings of scientists were most helpful in promoting the interchange of ideas, and scientific collaboration. It therefore recommends that scientists, and particularly young scientists, should, wherever possible, be included in national delegations to IOFC, and noted that such inclusion would be easier if IOFC meetings could be held in countries adjoining the Indian Ocean.

(iii) Means to implement international activities (International Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme)

28. The Commission, with the assistance of a Sessional Committee[3/] established for this purpose, undertook a study of a proposal, prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with a request by the Committee on Fisheries, for an international Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme under the overall coordination of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC/68/9).

29. Recognizing the great fishery potentials of the Indian Ocean as indicated by various direct and indirect sources of evidence, notably those resulting from the International Indian Ocean Expedition, and being convinced that a Programme along the general lines of the proposal under consideration would contribute greatly to the development of the fisheries in the Indian Ocean, the Commission agreed that steps should be taken to plan and implement a Programme under the aegis of the Commission.

30. The scope to which fisheries development in this area could reasonably be expected to grow is indicated by the possibility of increasing annual yields in the northwestern part of the Indian Ocean several times from the present level of production of about one million tons.

31. Accordingly the problems associated with such major developments are large and their solution will stretch over a number of years. They will involve additional research, provision of harbour and other infra-structure construction, access to capital required for initiating self-generating fisheries, and continuing surveys of both international markets and national markets in the countries of the region. They will eventually require participation by appropriate means, not only by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) but also by other international funding agencies such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as well as by individual investors. In particular the whole development will benefit by, and perhaps be dependent upon over-all coordinated planning of survey and development activities in the area into which particular national or multi-lateral projects can be effectively fitted and thus enhanced.

32. The aim of the Survey and Development Programme would be to increase the knowledge of the resources of the Indian Ocean as a whole, but particularly of those stocks which offered opportunities for early economic development especially by the countries in the

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3/ For the composition and terms of reference of the Sessional Committees see Appendix D.

area itself, to study all aspects of their utilization, identify obstacles to development and to plan remedial action. The Programme would thus furnish the basis for early development and the fuller utilization of the resources of the Indian Ocean. The Commission considered that the Programme might be made up of a number of individual coordinated projects, some of which might be primarily national in character while others might involve a number of nations.

33. The Commission felt that priority should be given to areas or stocks for which there were indications of both adequate resources and good prospects for economic development. In the first instance, the Programme should be directed mainly at resources in the northwestern part of the Ocean and its adjacent seas lying west of Ceylon and north of the Equator. Within this area special attention should be given to pelagic species (Sardinella, mackerel, skipjack etc.) and also to crustaceans in inshore waters.

34. In developing the Programme, full account should be taken of past, existing, and proposed fishery research and development projects in the area of the Indian Ocean, whether international or national, with the aim of integrating them into the Programme for mutual benefit.

35. While such integration may in certain cases call eventually for some modifications in the projects as presently conceived, the Commission was of the opinion that such modifications could be brought about at the proper time, and that there should be no delay in proceeding with existing or proposed projects pending the formulation of the Commission's Programme.

36. The Commission agreed that the Programme should consist of several phases, the first of which would be a preparatory phase. At the beginning of this phase, a small group of consultants under the leadership of an experienced fishery expert capable of guiding the planning and coordination of all of the survey and development activities in the Indian Ocean should first prepare an outline of the proposed Programme with reference to the availability of existing data and an indication of the nature and magnitude of the necessary contributions to its planning and implementation.

37. After the necessary support for the preparatory phase had been secured, the remainder of that phase would be devoted to preparing plans and formulating recommendations regarding specific steps to be taken to bring the resources of the Ocean to harvest and market. These plans and recommendations would follow from a rapid evaluation on the basis of existing knowledge of:

(a) Presently harvestable resources, their location, their magnitude, their availability and the economics of their exploitation

(b) Presently available markets, both international and national in the region, into which such resources could be accommodated, and the forms of product through which this could be accomplished

(c) The aspirations and capabilities of the regional nations which could be strengthened readily to initiate development of the use of these resources

38. At the end of the preparatory phase which would last for about two years, the plans and recommendations will be submitted to the Commission.

39. There would follow a phase of coordinated operations during which the Programme elaborated during the preparatory phase would be implemented. Activities would include national and multi-national projects in the investigation and assessment of resources, provision of harbour and other infrastructure facilities, training of manpower, development and demonstration of production technology, marketing methods and others. At the same time countries would review their policies regarding fishery development in order

to make them suitably dynamic. The coordinating functions of the Commission will continue to be important and will have to be exercised with the help of an expert staff and through an appropriate mechanism.

40. As a result of the Programme economic development and associated investment could be expected to take place on a substantial scale.

41. The Commission was informed of the conditions under which assistance for the Programme could be obtained from UNDP and noted that a substantial contribution would be expected from the developed countries among its members.

42. The representatives of these countries, while not in a position to enter into specific commitments at this time, indicated that their Governments would support the proposed Programme in principle and would give sympathetic consideration to specific proposals by the Commission for their Governments' participation in the Programme which would arise.

43. The Commission requested the Director-General to arrange, in consultation with the members of the Commission and with the UNDP, for a request on behalf of the Commission for UNDP assistance in the various stages of the Preparatory Phase of the Programme to be presented to the Administrator of UNDP in suitable form and to expedite the implementation of the Programme. The Commission further requested the Director-General to report to it at its next Session as well as to the Fourth Session of the Committee on Fisheries and the Fifty Second Session of the FAO Council on progress made in this regard, and decided to review the matter at its next Session.

44. The Commission was informed of informal discussions which had taken place during the Session between representatives of the Governments of the States bordering the Gulf between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula present at the Session, and Officers of FAO, respecting a proposal for a fishery resources appraisal of the Gulf and of the Gulf of Oman which was considered originally by the FAO Technical Conference of Fishery Representatives of the Near East Countries held in October 1966 (IOFC/68/INF.7). The Commission endorsed this proposal, and requested the Director-General, in consultation with UNDP and the States concerned, to take the action necessary to initiate such a survey.

45. The Commission was informed by the observer from the East African Marine Fisheries Research Organization (EAMFRO) of the activities of that Organization. It recognized that EAMFRO could contribute significantly to the implementation of the Programme of the Commission and that steps are being taken by the Governments of Kenya and Tanzania to request UNDP to give assistance to a project which would be part of the Programme of the Commission.

46. A number of representatives expressed strong support on behalf of their Governments of the proposed Programme and activities of the Commission.

COORDINATION OF NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

47. The Commission in considering this item unanimously agreed that the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission should be the instrument for coordination of national activities concerned with fishery resources of the Indian Ocean of common interest to its Member Nations.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

48. No other substantive matters were introduced.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES

49. The Commission, in discussing its future cooperation with the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council (IPFC), noted the request made by the Third Session of the Committee on Fisheries that both bodies should adjust their programmes so as to minimize duplication of activities.

50. It agreed that joint working parties to study common problems would be one way of establishing effective cooperation and avoiding duplication of activities. It also agreed that areas of interest should be defined. For that it recommended that its Members, which are also Members of the IPFC, should consider the matter at the Thirteenth Session of that Council to be convened shortly.

51. When considering the geographical areas of the two bodies, the Commission decided that boundaries should be kept flexible.

52. The Commission was informed about the activities of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center and agreed that liaison should be maintained with that organization by the Commission's Secretariat.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERSESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

53. The Commission, implementing its conclusion that a subsidiary body composed of experts serving in their individual capacity was necessary to develop statistical and sampling programmes to meet the requirements of governments and to ensure the coordination of work with international bodies, decided, in accordance with Rule IX of its Rules of Procedure, to establish a Working Party of Experts on Indian Ocean Fishery Statistics.

54. The Working Party would report and make recommendations to the Commission on matters within its terms of reference as set out on page 2 of this Report.

55. The Commission decided to invite the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council to co-sponsor the Working Party which could then also advise that Council. The Commission felt that the participation of IPFC would contribute to the coordination of statistical work in the area, and hoped that IPFC would at its next Session indicate its agreement to the Working Party becoming a joint body.

56. The Commission, implementing its conclusion that the establishment of two Committees, one on the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna, and the other on the Management of Shrimp in the Gulf between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, was the best approach to its tasks in the field of management of heavily exploited stocks, decided to establish two Committees.

57. The purpose of the Committees is to assist the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission in its consideration of the steps required to introduce management measures for heavily exploited stocks of tunas and shrimps when these are found necessary. The Committees should be advised in their work by a small working party of experts in the field of stock assessment, which the Commission decided to establish as well.

58. Membership in the Committees shall consist of selected Members of the Commission concerned with tuna fisheries, and shrimp fisheries of certain areas of the Indian Ocean. In order to expedite the urgent work of the Committees, the Commission agreed to request the Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, to proceed with the selection of the Member Nations of the Committees. The Commission agreed to review the membership of the Committees during its Second Session.

59. Interested Member Nations of FAO which are not members of the Commission should be encouraged to be represented by observers at the meetings of the Committees. Interested non-Member Nations of FAO which are members of the United Nations should also be encouraged to send observers to the meetings of the Committees upon their request and subject to approval by the FAO Council.

60. The Commission agreed to review in its Second Session the need for working parties and committees.

61. The Commission took note of the arrangements being made by the Director-General for providing it with the services of a Secretariat and considered that these arrangements appeared to be adequate for a smooth functioning of the Commission's work. It felt that the provision made for full participation of the competent staff of the Department of Fisheries was encouraging but that the question of location of the Secretary of the Commission might well be considered again at a later time.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

62. Upon proposal by its Nominations Committee, the Commission elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Dr. G.N. Mitra (India) - by name
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. J. Kambona (Tanzania) - by name
	France
	Japan
	Madagascar
	Qatar
	Thailand

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

63. The Commission considered the date and place of its next Session and came to the conclusion that this should be held in about 18 months' time depending on the progress of the intersessional work which it had initiated. The Commission recorded its deep appreciation of an invitation presented by the representative of Ceylon to hold a Session in that country as soon as the Commission felt that it could appropriately meet away from FAO Headquarters. The Commission was of the opinion that its next Session should, however, be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome in order to ensure fullest Secretariat support and services.

APPENDIX A

AGENDA

A. INTRODUCTORY AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. Opening of the Session
2. Election of the Chairman for the Session
3. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session
4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure
5. Election of the Vice-Chairmen for the Session
6. Appointment of Nominations Committee

B. SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

7. Review of the present status of knowledge of the Indian Ocean Fisheries
   - (i) Inshore fisheries
   - (ii) Offshore fisheries
   - (iii) Oceanic fisheries
   - (iv) Fishery statistics
   - (v) Utilization of fishery resources
8. Identification of international problems and establishment of priorities
   - (i) Fishery statistics
   - (ii) Management of heavily exploited stocks
   - (iii) Means to implement international activities (International Indian Ocean Fishery Development Project)
9. Co-ordination of national activities
10. Other substantive matters

C. CONCLUDING MATTERS

11. Co-operation with other international bodies
    - (i) IPFC

(ii) Others

12. Arrangements for intersessional work, and administrative matters

13. Adoption of the report and recommendations

14. Election of officers

15. Date and place of next session

APPENDIX B

Resolution 2/48 [1]

INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY COMMISSION
TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMISSION

THE COUNCIL

Noting that the Indian Ocean is an area as yet inadequately served by international fishery bodies;

Noting further that the need for collective action for the development and rational utilization of the fishery resources of the area had been established;

Considering that the Committee on Fisheries, after a thorough examination of the situation, recommended at its Second Session the establishment of a fishery body to cover the Indian Ocean and further recommended that such body be established under Article VI-1 of the Constitution.

Hereby establishes under Article VI-1 of the Constitution of the Organization a commission to be known as the "Indian Ocean Fishery Commission", the statutes of which shall be as follows:

1. The Commission's area of competence shall be the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas but excluding the Antarctic area.

2. The terms of reference of the Commission shall be:

   (a) to promote, assist and co-ordinate national programmes over the entire field of fishery development and conservation;

   (b) to promote research and development activities in the area through international sources, and in particular international aid programmes.

   (c) to examine management problems with particular reference, because of the need to take urgent action, to those relating to the management of offshore resources.

3. Membership in the Commission shall be open to all Member Nations and Associate Members which notify the Director-General of the Organization of their desires to be considered as members.

4. The Commission may establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its task, and in particular to deal with special problems arising in subdivisions of its area of competence subject to the availability of the necessary funds in the relevant chapter of the approved budget of the Organization; the determination of such availability shall be made by the Director-General. Before taking any decision involving expenditure in connection with the creation of subsidiary bodies, the Commission must have before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications thereof.

5. The Commission shall report and make recommendations to the Conference through the Director-General of the Organization it being understood that copies of its reports including any conclusions and recommendations, will be circulated to interested Member Nations and Associate Members, and international organizations, for their information as soon as they become available.

1/ Report of the Council of FAO, 48th Session, June, 1967

6. The Commission may adopt and amend its own rules of procedure which shall come into force upon approval by the Director-General, subject to confirmation by the Council.

7. Other statutory provisions, and in particular the participation as observers of Member Nations and Associate Members that are not members of the Commission, of non-member nations of the Organization that are members of the United Nations, and of international organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the principles adopted by the Conference.

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY COMMISSION

APPENDIX C

Rule I Membership

1. Membership in the Commission is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization in accordance with the provisions of Article VI, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the Organization. Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization shall be considered as members of the Commission upon receipt by the Director-General of notification of their desire to be so considered.

2. Each Member of the Commission shall, before the opening of each session of the Commission, communicate to the Director-General the name of its representative who should, as far as possible, have responsibilities related to marine fishery research and development.

Rule II Officers

1. The Commission shall elect, at the end of every Session, a Chairman and a maximum of six Vice-Chairmen who shall remain in office until the election of the new Chairman and new Vice-Chairmen. The out-going Chairman and Vice-Chairmen shall be eligible for re-election.

2. The Chairman, or in his absence a Vice-Chairman, shall preside at meetings of the Commission and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate the work of the Commission. The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

3. In the event that both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen are unable to serve, the Director-General or his representative shall act as Chairman, until an ad hoc Chairman is elected.

4. The Director-General shall appoint from among the staff of the Organization a Secretary of the Commission who shall be responsible to him.

Rule III Steering Committee

The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Commission will act as a Steering Committee during sessions.

Rule IV Sessions

1. The Commission shall normally hold only such sessions in each biennium as are listed in the Programme of Work of the Organization for the relevant period, subject, however, to the authority of the Director-General to make exceptions when in his view such action is necessary for the fulfillment of the Programme of Work as approved by the Conference; such exceptions being reported to the session of the Council immediately following such action.

2. The sessions of the Commission shall be convened by the Director-General, who shall decide on the place where they are to be held, in

consultation with the Chairman and the competent authorities of the host country, taking into account the views expressed by the Commission.

3. Notice of the date and place of each Session of the Commission shall normally be communicated at least three months before the session to all Members of the Commission, to such Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization that are not Members of the Commission and to such non-Member Nations of the Organization and international organizations as may have been invited to attend the session.

4. Each Member of the Commission shall have one representative who may be accompanied by alternates and advisers. An alternate or adviser shall not have the right to vote except when substituting for a representative.

5. Meetings of the Commission shall be held in public unless the Commission decides to meet in private for discussion of any items of its agenda.

6. A majority of the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule V Agenda

1. The Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman, shall prepare a provisional agenda for each session of the Commission.

2. The first item on the provisional agenda shall be the adoption of the agenda. No matter referred to the Commission by the Conference or Council of the Organization may be omitted from the agenda.

3. Any member of the Commission may request the Director-General to include specific items in the provisional agenda.

4. The provisional agenda shall be circulated by the Director-General at least two months before the date on which the opening of the session is scheduled to take place, to all Members of the Commission, to such Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization that are not Members of the Commission and to such non-Member Nations of the Organization and international organizations as may have been invited to attend the session.

5. Any member of the Commission and the Director-General may, after the dispatch of the provisional agenda but not later than one month before the date on which the opening of the session is scheduled to take place, propose the inclusion of specific items in the agenda. Such proposals shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the reasons why the inclusion of the items in the agenda is considered desirable. These items shall be placed on a supplementary list, which shall be dispatched by the Director-General to all Members of the Commission, other Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization attending the session and to such non-Member Nations and international organizations invited to the session, failing which the items shall be communicated to the Chairman for submission to the Commission.

6. Documents to be submitted to the Commission at any session shall be furnished by the Director-General to the Members of the Commission, the other Members of the Organization attending the session and to the non-Member Nations and international organizations invited to the session, at the time the agenda is dispatched or as soon as possible thereafter.

7. Subject to paragraph 2 of this Rule, the Commission may, at any session, decide by a 2/3rd majority to amend the agenda by the deletion, addition or modification of any item.

Rule VI Voting and Procedures

1. Each Member of the Commission shall have one vote.

2. Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast, unless otherwise provided in these Rules.

3. Upon the request of any Member of the Commission, voting shall be by roll-call, in which case the vote of each Member shall be recorded.

4. When the Commission so decides, voting shall be by secret ballot.

5. Voting in the Commission shall be carried out *mutatis mutandis* in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization.

Rule VII Observers

1. Any Member Nation or Associate Member of the Organization that is not a Member of the Commission, but has a special interest in the work of the Commission may, upon request communicated to the Director-General, attend sessions of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies or *ad hoc* meetings, in an observer capacity. Such Member Nations or Associate Members may submit memoranda and participate without vote in the discussions.

2. Nations which, while not Members of the Organization, are Members of the United Nations, may, upon their request and subject to the provisions adopted by the Conference of the Organization relating to the granting of observer status to nations, be invited to attend sessions of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies, and *ad hoc* meetings in an observer capacity. The status of nations invited to such sessions or meetings shall be governed by the relevant provisions adopted by the Conference of the Organization.

3. Subject to the provisions of the following paragraph the Director-General may invite international organizations to attend sessions of the Commission in an observer capacity.

4. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission and the relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Organization and the General Rules of the Organization as well as by the general regulations of the Organization on relations with international organizations. All such relations shall be dealt with by the Director-General.

Rule VIII Records and Reports

1. At each session, the Commission shall approve a report embodying its views, recommendations and decisions, including when requested a statement of minority views. Such other records for its own use as the Commission may on occasion decide shall also be maintained.

2. The conclusions and recommendations of the Commission shall be transmitted to the Director-General at the close of each session, and he shall circulate them to Members of the Commission and to nations and international organizations that were represented at the session and, upon request, to other Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization for their information.

3. Recommendations having policy, programme or financial implications for the Organization shall be brought by the Director-General to the attention of the Conference through the Council.

4. The Director-General may request Members of the Commission to supply information to him in order to keep the Commission informed on action taken by its Members on the basis of its recommendations.

Rule IX Subsidiary Bodies

1. The Commission may establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its task. These subsidiary bodies may deal with problems in the context of the Commission's area of competence as a whole or in the context of any sub-divisions of that area.

2. Membership in subsidiary bodies may be made up of all or selected Members of the Commission or of individuals appointed in their personal capacity.

3. The Commission may recommend to the Director-General the convening of ad hoc meetings, either of representatives of Members of the Commission or of experts serving in an individual capacity, in order to study problems that because of their specialized nature could not fruitfully be discussed during the normal sessions of the Commission.

4. Experts who are to serve in their personal capacity as members of any subsidiary body or who are to be invited to attend ad hoc meetings shall be chosen by the Commission unless the Commission decides otherwise, and shall be appointed by the Director-General in accordance with established procedures.

5. The terms of reference of the subsidiary bodies and the questions to be discussed by ad hoc meetings shall be determined by the Commission.

6. The establishment of subsidiary bodies and the convening of ad hoc meetings shall be subject to the availability of the necessary funds in the relevant chapter of the approved budget of the Organization. The determination of such availability shall be made by the Director-General. Only such sessions of subsidiary bodies and ad hoc meetings shall be convened in each biennium as are listed in the Programme of Work of the Organisation for the relevant period, subject, however, to the authority of the Director-General to make exception when in his view such action is necessary for the fulfillment of the Programme of Work as approved by the Conference; such exceptions being reported to the Session of the Council immediately following such action.

7. Before taking any decision involving expenditures in connection with the establishment of subsidiary bodies or the convening of an ad hoc meeting, the Commission shall have before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications thereof.

8. Each subsidiary body and ad hoc meeting shall elect its own officers.

9. The Rules of the Commission shall apply mutatis mutandis to its subsidiary bodies and ad hoc meetings.

Rule X Expenses

1. Expenses incurred by representatives of Members of the Commission, their alternates or advisers, when attending sessions of the Commission, sub-commissions, working parties or ad hoc meetings, as well as the expenses incurred by observers at sessions, shall be borne by the respective governments or organizations.

2. Expenses of experts invited by the Director-General to attend sessions or meetings in their individual capacity shall be borne by the Organization.

3. Any financial operations relating to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be governed by the appropriate provisions of the Financial Regulations of the Organization.

Rule XI Languages

English and French shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule XII Amendment and Suspension of Rules

1. Amendment of, or additions to these Rules may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the membership of the Commission provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the amendment or addition has been given. Amendments or additions to these Rules shall come into force upon approval by the Director-General, subject to confirmation by the Council of the Organization.

2. Any of the above Rules of the Commission, other than Rule I-1 Rule II-4, Rule IV-1, 2 and 6, Rule V-2, Rule VI-1 and 2, Rule VII, Rule VIII-3 and 4, Rule IX-5, 6 and 7, Rule X and Rule XII-1 may be suspended by the Commission by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given. Such notice may be waived if no Member of the Commission objects.

APPENDIX D

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERY STATISTICS

The Commission decides to establish, for the duration of the present session, a Sessional Committee to review the state of statistical knowledge of the fisheries of the Indian Ocean and identify the aspects of fisheries and the areas requiring most immediate attention.

In particular the Committee should:

1. consider the type of national and regional action which can best lead to the improvement of statistical knowledge.

2. in the light of existing statistical requirements and on the basis of the conclusions arrived at above, consider the need of establishing a working party - perhaps a joint IOFC/IPFC working party - to tackle the statistical problems identified.

3. if decision is reached to establish a working party, draft the frame of reference which would establish the lines of action which such a working party should follow.

The Committee will be composed of the following members: Australia,(Convenor), Greece, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Thailand.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON TUNA

The Commission decides to establish, for the duration of the present session, a sessional committee to examine the information on the state of stocks of tuna and other fish.

In particular the Committee should:

1. Determine which stocks appear to be capable of producing considerable increases in catches, and which appear to be presently in need of management, and what steps can be taken towards introducing effective management.

2. Determine what arrangements should be made to ensure a continuing review of the knowledge of the state of stocks for the purposes of both management and development planning.

3. Determine the steps needed to assist in the promotion of the necessary research.

The Committee will be composed of the following members: U.S.A. (Convenor) Ceylon, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Mauritius, Qatar.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY SURVEY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Commission decides to establish, for the duration of the present session, a Sessional Committee to study the proposal for an Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Project under the overall coordination of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC/68/9), and suggest to the Commission what the scope, magnitude and timing of such a project might be. In particular the Committee should formulate specific proposals for the action to be taken by the Commission to procure financial and other forms of support for such a project.

The Committee will be composed of the following members: India (Convenor) France, Kenya, Kuwait, Pakistan, Tanzania, U.K., U.S.A.

APPENDIX E

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING PAPERS

IOFC/68/1	Provisional Agenda
IOFC/68/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
IOFC/68/3	Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission
IOFC/68/4	Report of the First Session of the Committee on Fisheries Working Party on the Rational Utilization of the Fishery Resources of the Indian Ocean
IOFC/68/5	Report of the IPFC Group of Experts on the Indian Ocean - Present Status of Fisheries and Assessment of Potential Resources of the Indian Ocean and Adjacent Seas
IOFC/68/6	List of Species for Statistical Purposes
IOFC/68/7	Indian Ocean Fishery Commission Statistical Area
IOFC/68/8	Western and Eastern Indian Ocean: Catch Statistics 1967
IOFC/68/9	International Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Project
IOFC/68/10	The State of Stocks of Tuna in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans
IOFC/68/11	Aspects of the Commercial Utilization of Fishery Resources in the Indian Ocean area
IOFC/68/12	The State of Shrimp and Fish Resources in the Gulf between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula (Summary)
IOFC/68/13	Proposals for the Standardization of Regional Fishery Statistics

INFORMATION PAPERS

IOFC/68/INF.1 Rev.2	Provisional Time-Table
IOFC/68/INF.2	Resolution 2/48 of the Forty-Eighth Session of the FAO Council establishing the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission

IOFC/68/INF.3	Sources of Assistance for Fishery Development Programmes
IOFC/68/INF.4	Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council: Agreement and Rules of Procedure. Basic Texts III, Fascicule 2
IOFC/68/INF.5	Summary of Current Fishery Field Projects in the Indian Ocean
IOFC/68/INF.6	Information for delegates
IOFC/68/INF.7	Report of the FAO Technical Conference of Fishery Representatives of the Near East Countries
IOFC/68/INF.8	The Fisheries of East Africa and their Development Prospects. A Preliminary Survey
IOFC/68/INF.9	General Problems of International Co-operation in Fisheries
IOFC/68/INF.10	History of the Activities of the East African Marine Fisheries Research Organization (EAMFRO)
IOFC/68/INF.11	The State of Shrimp and Fish Resources in the Gulf between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula (Text)
IOFC/68/INF.12	Report of the Third Session of the Committee on Fisheries
IOFC/68/INF.13 Rev.1	Members of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission
IOFC/68/INF.14 Rev.2	Provision List of Participants
IOFC/68/INF.15	List of Documents
IOFC/68/INF.16	Appointments for Visitors
IOFC/68/INF.17	Opening Address by Mr. A. H. Boerma, Director-General

APPENDIX F

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ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL APPENDIX G

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure to welcome to Rome the representatives and their advisers of the Member Nations of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission, and also of nations and international organizations represented here in observer capacity. The occasion is of special significance because it is your inaugural session as a Commission, and you will be addressing yourselves for the first time in this forum to a number of urgent and vital problems concerning the development of the fishery resources of the Indian Ocean, problems that have been in the minds of many of you for some time. Before developing my thoughts on some of these problems, I would like to extend, in a personal way, my welcome to you as a body of experienced fishery scientists and administrators, economists and technologists.

The Indian Ocean Fishery Commission was created to bring a special international effort to bear on the assessment of available resources of fish, on raising production, and on clarifying the need for resource management. The Commission was, therefore, established by the Council at its Forty-Eighth Session, in response to a recommendation by the Committee on Fisheries at its Second Session. The Committee on Fisheries had itself identified emergent management problems in this Ocean, which called for intensified study and co-ordinated action on the part of all the nations active there.

On the one hand certain stocks, for instance shrimp and at least one of the species of tuna, appeared to be showing the effects, in declining yield, of intensified fishing; and an assessment of the condition of those stocks was urged in order to determine whether regulatory measures might soon become necessary. On the other hand, it was generally recognized that the overall level of production of fish and fish products from the Indian Ocean was low compared with other oceans, and that special efforts would be needed, both national and international, if production was to be stepped up, and greater quantities of high quality protein food directed to populations where protein deficiencies were common.

The most urgent tasks of the Commission will, therefore, be to create the machinery for co-ordinating existing national research and statistical programmes, and to promote new internationally-based investigations into the extent and availability of the resources of fish in the Ocean. This Commission will also be called upon to help FAO determine the priorities for its work in the area.

Bearing in mind these objectives, I will now read to you the terms of reference from your Statutes which are set down in Council Resolution No. 2/48. They are:-

(a) to promote, assist and co-ordinate national programmes over the entire field of fishery development and conservation;

(b) to promote research and development activities in the area through international sources, and in particular international aid programmes;

(c) to examine management problems with particular reference, because of the need to take urgent action, to those relating to the management of offshore resources.

The work of your Commission, and of the Department of Fisheries in supporting it, is in the main stream of the Organization's thrust towards meeting the demand for food for the world's growing populations, and towards a growing and a more balanced world economy.

This thrust is being channelled into a few major programme objectives of which closing the protein gap is among the most important. I need not emphasize this to an audience of fishery experts; everything you do is directed in one way or another to this end. Another of these objectives is the elimination of waste, and here I regard as wasteful the under-utilization of resources which are ripe for development; this problem, as it concerns the fisheries, is tied closely to the first. Increasing foreign exchange - and the utilization of human resources are other unifying themes on which the Organization as a whole is concentrating its efforts, and which have direct relevance to fishery development.

However, it goes without saying that all our efforts in fishery science and development must be based on national programmes and efforts. These may need encouragement and assistance, and the Department of Fisheries, through the United Nations Development Programme, is already working alongside many of you who are here today; in your laboratories, on the decks of your research and exploratory fishing vessels, in processing plants and on planning fishing harbours. Yet, the highest return for the sum of all our efforts in the field of fisheries, whether in resource assessment research or in the development of fishery industries, will depend on close and continuous international co-operation. The most important of your functions may therefore be to provide both the machinery for international discussion of your problems, and also the drive to see put into effect the remedies and solutions which you yourselves will propose. This Commission is already the largest in the family of FAO international fishery bodies - indeed it is the largest regional fisheries body in the world - your membership today includes 26 Member Nations of FAO - an indication in itself of the importance of the fisheries of the Indian Ocean as a matter of world-wide interest and concern.

Above all let us be practical in our proposals; recommendations for action which do not indicate possible ways and means will risk being pigeon-holed for lack of feasibility.

If this Commission determines that a special effort will be required to assess the available resources of fish in the great expanse of the Indian Ocean, where are the human resources, the skills, the vessels and the money to come from? A lead has been given to us by the Conference at its Fourteenth Session. It recognized in paragraph 121 of its Report that international fishery bodies like your Commission lacked the resources to put into effect large scale ocean fishery researches, and that Regular Programme funds of FAO were not intended for this purpose. The Conference, therefore, (and I quote) "believed that the various multilateral funding agencies including the UNDP should support research and development activities sponsored by regional fishery bodies directed towards increased exploitation of resources of fish and their more efficient utilization and effective management". It is for you therefore clearly to identify these problems and activities, and to make your recommendations on how and where solutions should be sought; in addition to possible multilateral sources of funds, it might also be possible to enlist some bilateral support.

You may also find helpful some conclusions jointly arrived at by the Ad Hoc Committee on Organization and myself, when we were considering FAO's organizational problems.

We have pointed out in our current Report to the FAO Council that the selection and formulation of development programmes involve the identification of projects (a) which fit into overall country planning (b) where there is a possibility of supporting action from other agencies and organizations and (c) where there are possibilities for attracting investment.

Distinguished Delegates, you have travelled long distances to attend this Session, and have laid aside many urgent tasks with which you are currently engaged in your own countries to come and lend counsel and support to the further development of your plans in this wider international forum. The Organization is grateful to you for thus making available your experience and your time, and you take up your heavy but absorbing task with my very best wishes for a successful and profitable outcome.

I now declare open the First Session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission.

ADDRESS BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL (FISHERIES) APPENDIX H

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

I must thank you for giving me this early opportunity of adding my few words of welcome to those of the Director-General, and of expressing my pleasure at meeting so many old friends in this new forum, the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission.

This, the First Session of the Commission, will, it may be expected, develop a pattern of work which will be carried out over several years - perhaps decades - to come, and which will be guided and supported by this Commission in its subsequent Sessions. This Session is, therefore, of very special importance since it will identify some large and complicated problems. Unless the plans for inter-sessional work and for actions to be undertaken by Member Nations and FAO are carefully thought out, progress may be slower than most of you would desire.

The outstanding characteristic of oceanic stocks of fish is that when they are found beyond the limits of national jurisdiction they are, in a sense common property, equally liable to capture by fishermen of any nation. (Fishermen, of course, are subject to the laws of their own nations.) Not only are fish on the high seas the common property and responsibility of all mankind but since they are a renewable natural resource, their abundance in future years depends in part on how well we manage our fisheries today. In a very real sense we hold these resources in trust for future generations.

The development of high seas fisheries is, therefore, of common interest and concern to the Member Nations of the Commission, and to other Nations active in this Ocean, and all the Commission's plans and actions and those of the Department of Fisheries must flow from this.

This Commission, therefore, at this First Session should determine priorities among the tasks which it faces, and especially among the species chosen for intensive study. The supporting work of the Department of Fisheries would be adjusted and planned accordingly.

Regarding the nature of international co-operative action in the field of fisheries, I would like to digress for a moment and outline some distinctions and differences among the various types of action, which have been pointed up in discussions in the Committee on Fisheries. The most clearly identified field, and historically the oldest, is probably that of co-ordinated resource and ocean environmental research. Each nation has its own programme of fishery research, but it is only when the scientists gather round the table and inform each other of their programmes that unnecessary duplication can be avoided, methodology standardized, and the work to be undertaken over very wide areas can be equitably shared. Statistical studies fall into the same category, being necessary alike for economic studies and for resource and effort assessment; methods and concepts have to be standardized by international discussion, and summations have to be put together in meaningful form.

Again, when a fishery reaches a more developed stage and begins to need some degree of regulation, the nations participating in that fishery must work out the most equitable formula for ensuring a maximum sustained economic yield from the fishery. Here the full participation by every nation concerned with the fishery is crucial; if one major fishing nation fails to be a party to an agreement, or fails to co-operate in an agreed formulation of policy and practice, the efforts of all the other nations may be rendered useless, and the fishery may be reduced to a valueless vestige.

Such themes I would call "common problems" or "common international problems" and they are associated with the common property nature of the resource.

Distinct from these, I can identify another group of themes which several nations may be facing simultaneously in one way or another, but whose solution may be individual to the various nations. Among such problems I would include matters of economics and marketing, food technology and processing, design of vessels and gear, and harbour engineering. It is no less desirable for like-minded people from different countries to gather round the table to consult on such themes as these. Suitable media would include technical conferences, working groups, training centres and the like; where specialists are likely to arrive at certain agreed formulations, and where standards may be discussed; for instance, matters of the quality of processed fish, or matters of international trade. In a few such cases, there may even be a need for concerted international action; as, for instance, during the crisis that arose a few years ago in the world fishmeal industry, when the tremendously expanded production from Peru threatened to dislocate the world market and the international trade in fishmeal for animal feeding stuffs.

I hope you will forgive my brief philosophical digression, but some justification seemed to be needed for international consultations and studies in certain fields where most of the input hitherto has been on a purely national scale. Such themes might be called "problems of shared interest" by several nations.

I would now like to expand a little on the Director-General's reference in his opening address to the five major programme objectives which he has identified as the selected lines of action for the future programme of work throughout the Organization; these lines of work were selected by the Director-General as likely to be the most fruitful in yielding tangible and beneficial results on a considerable scale over the next decade or so. The development of the fisheries engages us all in four out of five priority tasks (the fifth, concerning high yielding varieties, although applicable to inland fishery development, is not yet relevant to marine fisheries). The first, namely, closing the protein gap is implicit in all our work in the field of fisheries. Every expansion of fish production helps to increase the supplies of high grade animal protein which is an absolute essential for proper human nutrition.

The elimination of waste is another of FAO's objectives and in fisheries can be considered from two aspects; firstly, the non-use of a resource, either from an underexploited stock or of a hitherto unused stock, is a waste where development is economically viable. Secondly, improvements in standards of handling, processing and distributing fish and fish projects will directly reduce economic wastage, either by reduction of spoilage or by achieving an enhanced economic yield by added value or otherwise. Product development plays an important part in this context. From another point of view the provision of adequate harbour and market facilities may not only enable larger quantities to be landed and distributed, but also facilitate the utilization of otherwise unmarketable fish or offal for conversion to fishmeal.

The third of these selected lines of action lies in increasing foreign exchange. Both shrimp and the various species of tuna are in demand especially in North America and Japan, and their efficient and hygienic deep freezing and transport entails considerable capital investment and engineering and other skills; both types of resource may, of course, be depleted if very heavily fished, and it will be one of the tasks of this Commission to institute and continue detailed co-operative investigations to determine in what areas and for what species there may be need for management in the near future.

My reference to the need for engineering and other skills leads me to the last of these special programme objectives, namely, the utilization of human resources. The Committee on Fisheries has repeatedly urged the importance of training in all the relevant fields of fishery endeavour, and at all levels. Well trained and highly competent scientists already exist in some Member Nations, but many more will be needed, and new fishery research effort should be developed with specially trained staff in countries where this scarcely exists at present. The use of wider ranging

vessels with more sophisticated detection and catching equipment and gear necessitates well trained fishermen and engineers, competent to get the best out of modern equipment; product development will entail technological laboratories and trained food technologists with adequate equipment. In sum, therefore, there is great scope around the Indian Ocean and elsewhere, for upgrading, through appropriate education and training, a wide range of human endeavour, and thereby making the best use of available human resources.

Turning now to the Indian Ocean itself - it is the third largest of the world's oceans, covering 28.4 million square miles, approximately 20% of the water surface of the globe. Yet in 1966 the available statistics show that the total catch in the Indian Ocean was 2.14 million metric tons, which amounted to only 4.2% of the total marine catch of 50 million tons. While much work must be done before the fishery potential of the Indian Ocean can be more accurately assessed - this will be one of the major problems confronting this Commission - there is evidence to show that the primary productivity, at least in some parts of the Indian Ocean is equal to, or may even exceed, that of the most productive areas of other oceans. Such figures give an indication of possibilities for increased production from the Indian Ocean, even though there is evidence that certain stocks, including several tuna species and some shrimp populations may be exploited at levels where close attention to the dangers of over-exploitation is warranted. You will, I am sure, devote much of your time to these possibilities and problems at this and future sessions.

Lastly, I would bring to your attention some of the work carried out by my staff in preparation for this meeting. First of all, you will find in document IOFC/68/8 the relevant extracts from the forthcoming Yearbook of Fishery Statistics which record the basic statistics for the Indian Ocean area for the year 1967. Then, in response to requests of Member Nations in that area, two staff members carried out an investigation into the state of the shrimp and fish resources of the Gulf between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula; this involved visits in January 1968 to most of the countries bordering that Gulf and, although the statistical picture was found not to be quite as complete as we would have desired, certain tentative conclusions could be drawn, and these are summarized in documents IOFC/68/12 and Inf.11.

Even more recently, we convened this August a meeting of a Group of Experts on Tuna Stock Assessment, on both the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean stocks. The full report of this meeting has not yet been prepared, but a summary has been issued and is made available to you in document IOFC/68/10. It seems that yellowfin, bluefin and albacore tuna are already heavily fished; but some increase in bigeye catches may be possible. However, the major opportunity for increasing appreciably the Indian Ocean tuna catch is for skipjack, and the stocks of the species appear to be large.

Looking to the future, document IOFC/68/9 outlines, as a basis for discussion, a programme proposal for an international fishery survey and development project in the Indian Ocean. It is suggested that this Commission would be the co-ordinating body for this project, and financial support would be sought from the United Nations Development Programme. It is possible that various of the bilateral aid programmes might also wish to be associated with this project.

Mr. Chairman, the examination of this proposal and the establishment of priorities in areas and stocks which require more detailed study will, apart from some procedural matters, be the main task for this Commission at this Session.

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